

This book is all about ants and autos, armadillos and
airplanes, and lots of other exciting **A**'s.

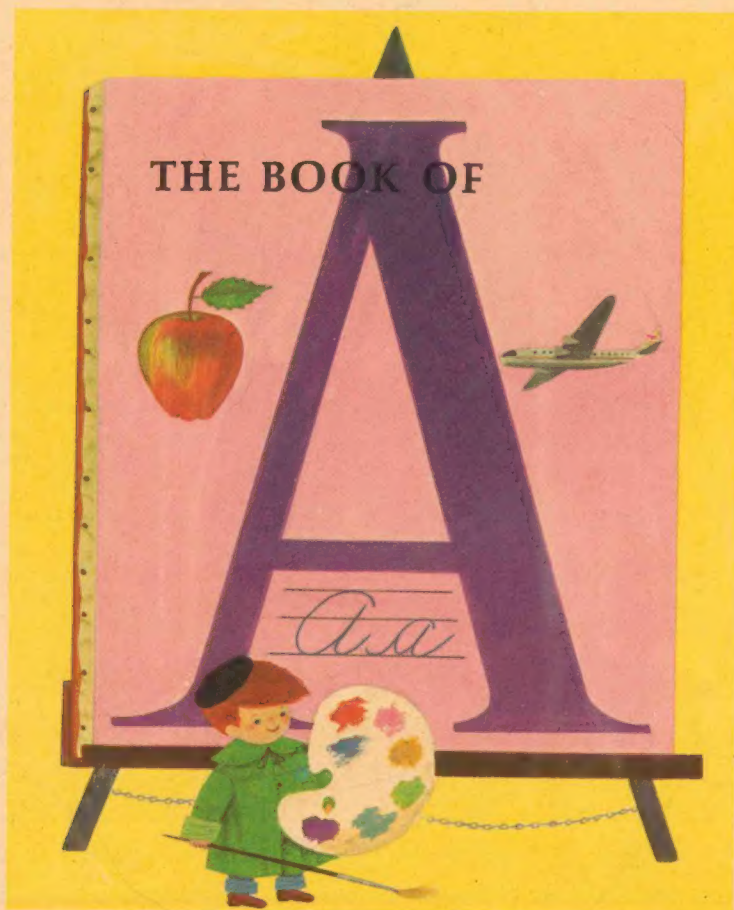
a Golden Book



This
Golden Book
belongs to



MY FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY




CONSULTANT • BERTHA MORRIS PARKER
BY JANE WERNER WATSON • PICTURES BY
WILLIAM DUGAN • GOLDEN PRESS • NEW YORK

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foreword

No stage of a child's education is as important as the beginning. The three-year-old child, able to walk and therefore to explore, able to talk and therefore to ask questions, is a living bundle of curiosity about everything around him. For the next few years, the period just before and after starting school and learning to read, it is literally impossible for a child to learn too much. At this stage, learning is as natural as breathing. Later on come the more formal aspects of education, exercises and tests, assignments and homework, but from three to eight learning is life itself. The 16 volumes of MY FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY, with their more than 400 pages of text and 1,500 illustrations, have been meticulously planned both to arouse and satisfy the thirst for knowledge of this age group.

When *The Golden Book Encyclopedia* was first presented to the public, the publishers were gratified to receive an unusually large number of letters from parents telling how much their children liked it. An interesting sidelight of many of these letters was that, despite the fact that *The Golden Book Encyclopedia* was designed for children from eight to twelve, many parents found that their younger children, even those who could not read, found it just as fascinating as the older ones. Some parents even bought two sets. Why, they asked,



could not a similar group of books be planned especially for these younger children? MY FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY, after five years of planning, is the result of this interest.

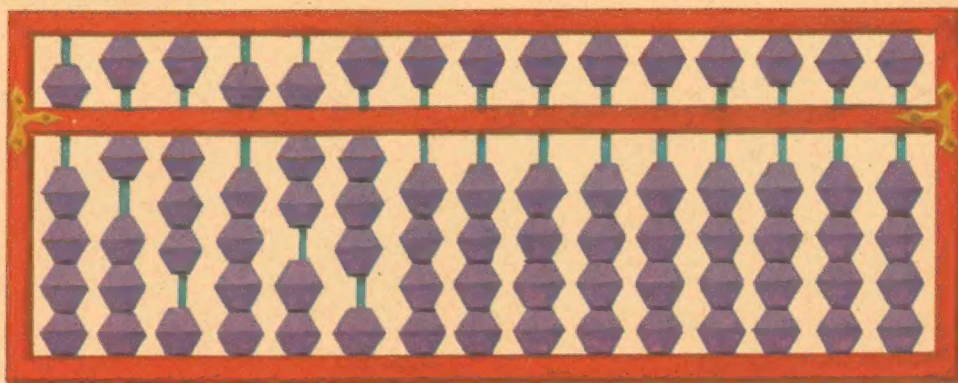
Jane Werner Watson, the author of over a hundred Golden Books, including the best-selling *Golden History of the World* and *The New Golden Encyclopedia*, was asked to prepare the text. A writer with the rare ability to communicate successfully with the very young, Mrs. Watson has managed to present a great deal of basically complex information in a way that will fascinate children as much as their favorite bedtime story.

The chief consultant for the LEARNING LIBRARY has been Dr. Bertha Morris Parker, herself a pioneer in writing non-fiction for very young children and author of the famous *Golden Book Encyclopedia*. Dr. Parker has checked every word of the text to insure that it is readable, interesting, informative, and accurate. The full-color illustrations by William Dugan were carefully executed to both reflect and augment the information given in the text. They are also, we think you will agree, delightful in themselves.

MY FIRST GOLDEN LEARNING LIBRARY has been printed and bound with the distinction expected of all Golden Books. Our best hope for these volumes is that over the years they become dog-eared and thoroughly used up. That is the surest sign of a truly successful children's book.

—THE PUBLISHERS

Abacus

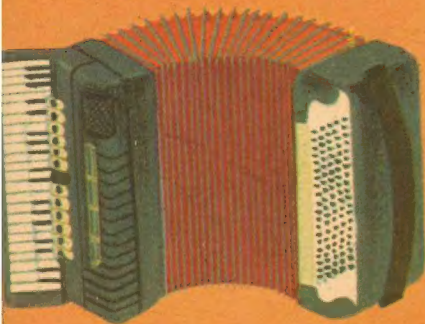


An abacus has beads on wires.
Some beads stand for 1.
Some beads stand for 10.
Some beads stand
for other numbers.
People in many lands count
and do arithmetic
on an abacus.

They move the beads
on the wires.
They add.
They subtract.
They do many things
with numbers
by moving the beads
on the abacus.



accordion



An accordion is
for making music.

Pull it out.

You let air in.

Push it together.

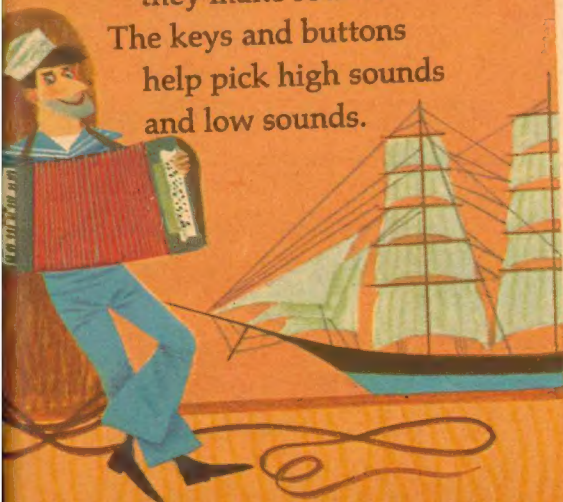
You push air out.

As the air goes out,
it moves little metal blades.

These are called reeds.

When they move,
they make sounds.

The keys and buttons
help pick high sounds
and low sounds.



acrobat

An acrobat is strong and nimble.
He can do many tricks
with his body.

He must exercise.

He must eat well.

He must practice each trick
many times.

Thus he learns to do it well.



air



Air is all around us.
We breathe it all the time.
We do not see air.
But we feel it move.

Sometimes air moves lightly.

We call it a breeze.

Sometimes air moves fast.

We call it a wind.

Moving air gives us
our weather.

(Look up *weather* in the W book.)

Sometimes air helps us.

It turns windmills.

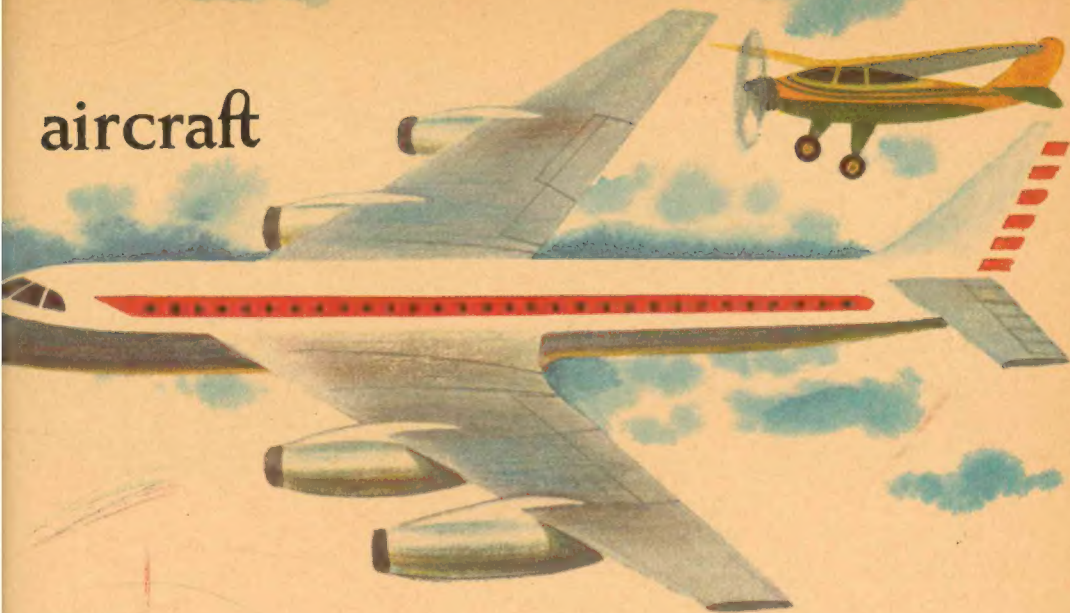
It holds up airplanes.

It pushes sailboats
over the water.

You can see air helping
in the picture below.



aircraft



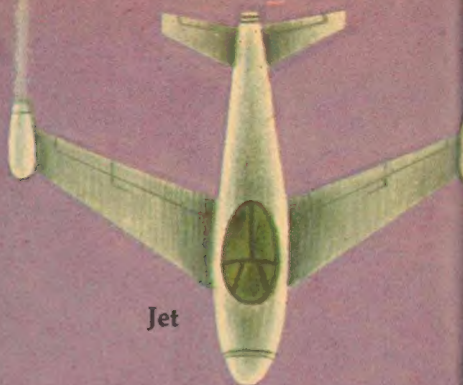
Airplanes fly in the air.
Many airplanes
have propellers.
The motors turn
the propellers.
The propellers turn very fast.
They turn so fast
that it is hard to see
their curved blades.
The propeller blades bite
into the air ahead.

They pull the airplane forward.
Airplanes have wings.
Air pushes down on the wings
from above.
Air pushes up on the wings
from below.
The shape of the wings
makes the air push up
more than down.
The air holds
the airplane up.





Helicopter



Jet



Airliner

Some aircraft have no wings.

They are called helicopters.

A helicopter has

a very large propeller on top.

This is called a rotor.

The rotor goes around
very fast.

It pulls the helicopter
into the air.

Some planes have jet engines.

Hot gas pours out of the jets.

The hot gas pushes
the airplane ahead.

Jet planes fly very, very fast.

Jet planes fly very, very high.

The man who flies an airplane
is called a pilot.

The pilot sits up in front
in the cockpit.

A big airplane needs
a man to check
on its direction.

This man is the navigator.
He sits in the cockpit too.

There is a radio man.

He talks to people on the ground.

They tell him about the weather.

They tell him when the pilot
can land the plane.

The radio man sits
in the cockpit too.

All these men are members
of the crew of a big airplane.

Cockpit



The passengers
in an airplane sit in the cabin.

They may read or write
or sleep or talk
or eat meals from trays.
Or they may look out of
the windows.

Stewards or hostesses
make the passengers comfortable
and serve them meals.

Their kitchen is very small.
It is called a galley.

Some airplanes are small.
They hold one or two people.



Some small airplanes spray fields
to kill insects.



Some airplanes are big.
They may hold more than
a hundred people.

They are called crop dusters.



Some airplanes look
for forest fires.



Some airplanes carry cameras
to take pictures.



Some helicopters carry mail
into town from the airport.

Helicopters can land
in a very small space.
Or they can come down low
to drop ropes to people
who need help.



Seaplanes have pontoons
like small boats
instead of wheels.
They land on water.

Some planes can land either
on water or on the ground.
They are called amphibians.

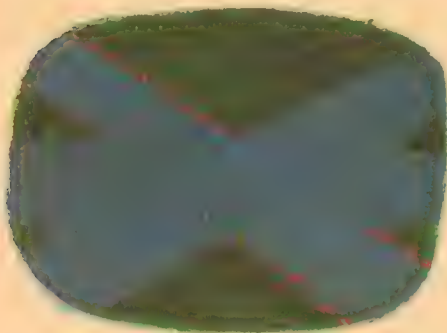


airport

Airplanes land at airports.

An airport has runways.

Runways are roads
for airplanes
when they are
on the ground.



At night, colored lights
show where the runways are.



An airport has a control tower.

Men in the control tower

talk to the crew

in planes by radio.

(Look up *radio* in the R book.)

The men in the control tower

tell the plane crew

when and where to land

and take off.





An airport has hangars.
Airplanes are parked
in hangars.
Mechanics keep the planes
in good shape for flying.

An airport has a terminal.
People who want to travel
in an airplane
wait for it
in the terminal.



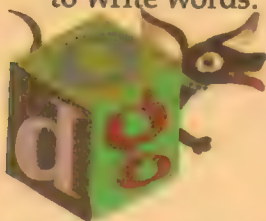
a b c d e f g h i j k l m

alphabet

Our alphabet is made up
of 26 letters.

The letters stand for sounds.

We put letters together
to write words.



The letters on the blocks
are small letters.

We use small letters most.

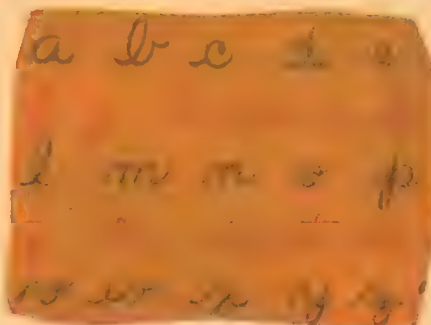
All the small letters
are at the top of the page.

The letters on the sign
are capital letters.

We use them
at the beginning of names
and at the beginning
of sentences.

STOP

We learn to read printed letters
in books
and in other places too.



When you write a word
you use letters like these.

CHEAT

GRUD

Write your name

n o p q r s t u v w x y z



animals

Some living things are plants.

All the others are animals.

There are twenty-three
animals in these pictures.

Most animals can move about.

Most plants cannot.



Some animals are very,
very small.

We need a magnifying glass
to see them.

Many of the tiniest animals
live in water.

Two-Spotted Ladybird Striped Cucumber Beetle



More than half of all
the kinds of animals
are insects.

There are seven insects
in these pictures.

The two caterpillars
are baby insects.

The other insects
are grown-up.

Grown-up insects
have six legs.

Most grown-up insects
have wings and can fly.

Luna Moth



Toucan

Rhinoceros

Hippopotamus

Alligator

Turtle

Frog



Gypsy Moth Caterpillar

House Fly

Fiery Searcher

Black Swallowtail Caterpillar

The frog is an amphibian.

Amphibians live

partly on land,

partly in the water.

The rabbit and the squirrel

are mammals.

So are the five biggest

animals in the picture.

Five of these animals
are birds.

All birds have feathers.

The turtle and the alligator
are reptiles.

Reptiles are covered
with scales.

Camel

Bluebird

Meadowlark

Elephant

Ostrich

Crowned
Crane

Lion

Squirrel

Rabbit

Here are eight
more mammals.
Most mammals have
coats of fur.
All mammals have
some hair.
Most mammals have
four legs.
Mammal mothers feed
their babies milk
until the babies
are old enough
to eat other food.
Dogs are mammals.
Cats are mammals.
Cows and horses and pigs
are mammals.
People are mammals, too.
Whales are the
biggest mammals.
Shrews are the littlest.
Reptiles and amphibians
have bones.
So do birds and mammals.



Tiger



Monkey



Shrew



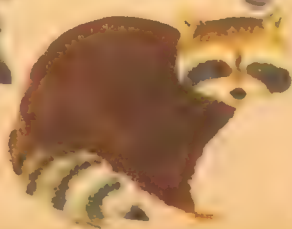
Giraffe



Bear




Okapi



Raccoon



Donkey



Fishes have bones, too.
All fishes live in water.
Crabs and clams and
many other water animals
have shells instead of bones.
The red animal is a squid.

aquarium

An aquarium is a glass home
for fish and other
water animals or plants.

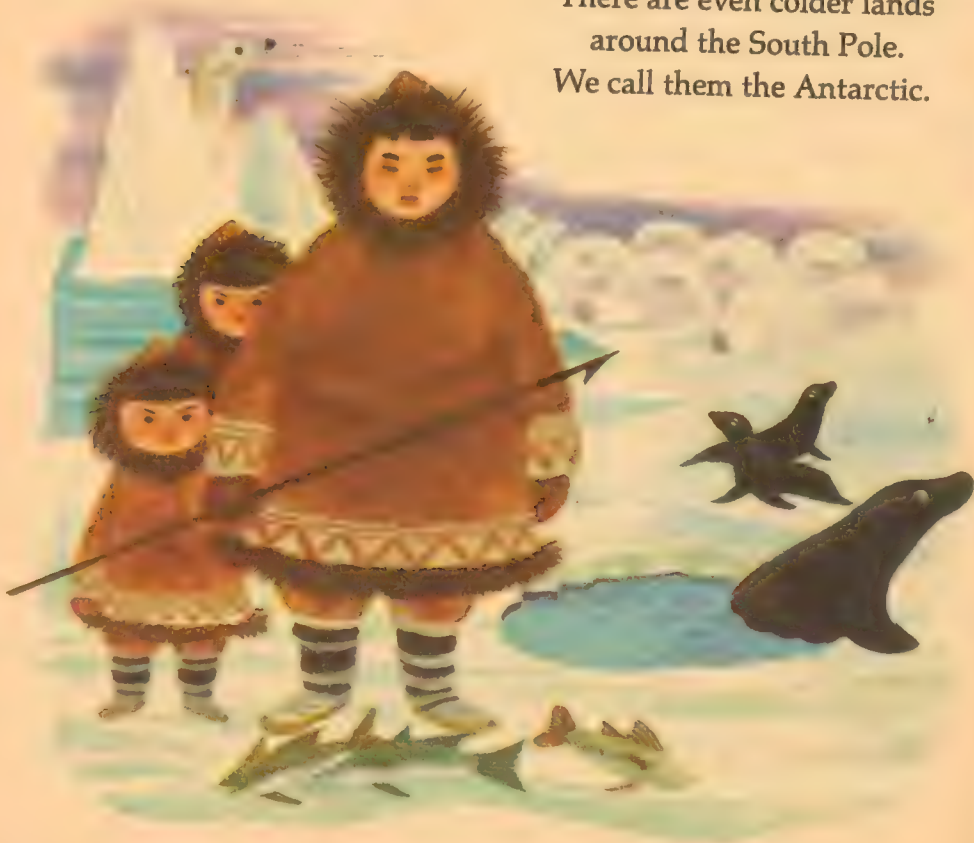


Arctic

It is cold in the Arctic.
There are no trees.
There are few animals.
There are very few people.
The plants are small.
But there is lots
of ice and snow.



The North Pole is in the Arctic.
There are even colder lands
around the South Pole.
We call them the Antarctic.



art

Making something beautiful
is an art.

You may make something
beautiful of clay
or with finger paints
or with crayons.

You may do a beautiful dance.
You may sing a song beautifully.
All of these are works of art.
When you make something
beautiful, you are an artist.



automobile



An automobile, or car,
must have an engine.



Hood

The first automobiles were
called "horseless carriages."
The automobile did not need
horses to move it.
It moved by itself.
Automobile means
"self-moving."

Most engines are under
the hood in front.
Some are at the back
of the car.
Most automobile engines
need gasoline.
The engine makes the wheels
turn.
The turning wheels
make the car run,
so we can go for a ride.



The automobile has a frame
called a chassis.

We say "chass-ee."

The automobile has a body
which fits on the chassis.

The body has doors
and windows.

It has seats inside.

It has space for luggage.

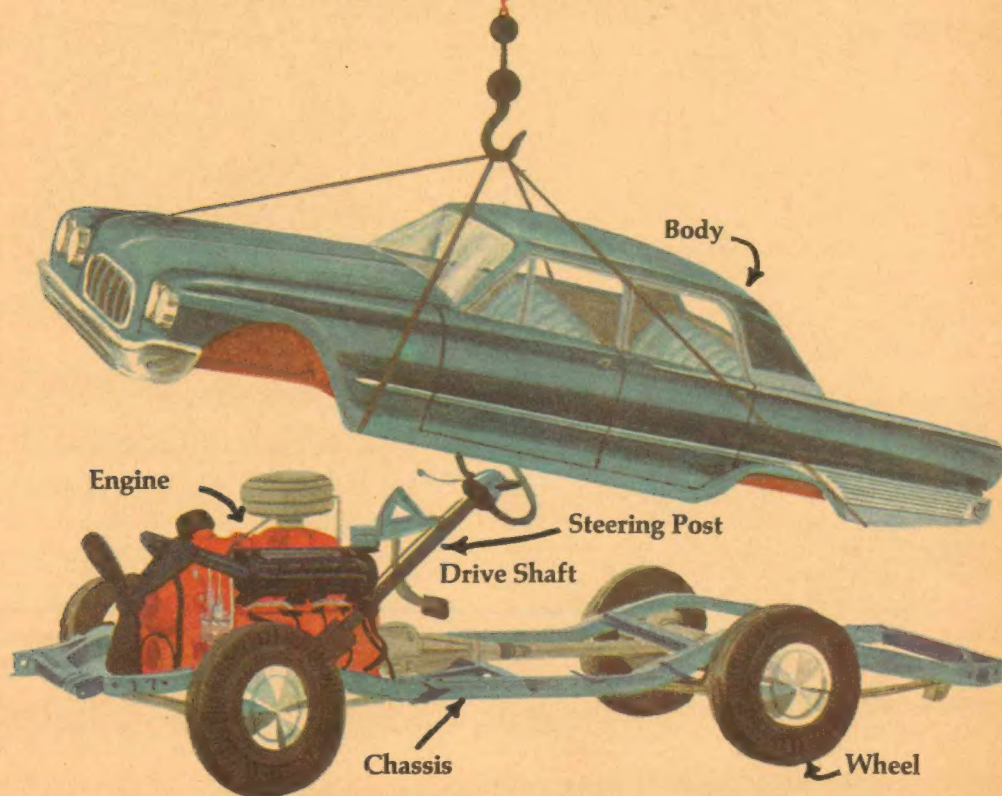
The engine fits on the chassis.

The hood covers the engine.

The steering wheel's post
leads to the front wheels.

It turns the wheels to the right
or to the left.

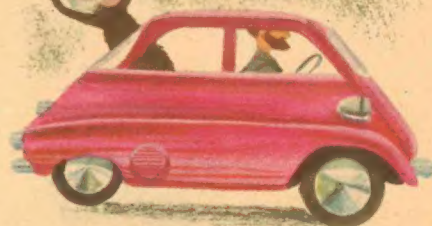
Many automobiles have heaters
and radios to make trips
more pleasant.



Many families
have automobiles
called station wagons.
These have lots of room
for children and groceries
and other things.



Very small cars are good
for short trips.
Their engines do not use
much gasoline.



Where roads are bad
special cars are used.
Some of them are called jeeps.
They are very strong.



There are special cars
to carry many kinds of loads.
We call them trucks and buses.
(You will find *bus*
in the B book.)



